

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, March 28, 2013

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Nader Baroukh	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. Peter Candland	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Janet Clarke	County of Loudoun
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Jay Fiset	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Hon. Libby Garvey	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Frank Jones	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., NVRC Vice Chairman	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Fernando "Marty" Martinez	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Lisa C. Merkel	Town of Herndon
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Chairman	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne	City of Fairfax
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Linda Smyth	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Ken Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics & Information Services</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
Corey Miles	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Business Planning</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental & Planning Services</i>
Stephen Walz	<i>Director, Regional Energy Planning</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Hon. George Barker	<i>Virginia Senate (D-39th District)</i>
Brue Bennett	<i>Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee</i>
Kate Boyle	<i>Fairfax Co. legislative staff</i>
Amy Inman	<i>Manager of Transit Planning, Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>
Robert Whitfield	<i>Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance</i>

CALL TO ORDER While waiting for Chairman Nohe to arrive, Vice Chairman Lazaro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

MINUTES Commissioner Bulova moved approval of the minutes of the Commission meeting of February 28, 2013. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

COMMONWEALTH POPULATION PROJECTIONS Chairman Nohe welcomed state Senator George Barker.

Sen. George Barker Sen. Barker explained the state agencies are required to use the state's population projections on all official actions. Funding formulas for money coming to individual jurisdictions are not based on the population projections, but there are ramifications for transportation planning, university planning, etc. For several decades, an employee with the Virginia Employment Commission compiled those projections, and while they were a little low for Northern Virginia the projections were still acceptable. In 2012, the population projection function was moved to Weldon Cooper Center at the University of Virginia, the first time the center has made population projections. In reviewing those projections for Northern Virginia, Sen. Barker and Ken Billingsley, NVRC's Director of Demographics and Information Services, conclude that Weldon Cooper Center's projections for rapidly growing areas are inaccurate.

Since the 1930s, Northern Virginia has experienced substantial population increases each decade with the exception of the 1970s. In fact, two Congressional districts have been added, and if the growth continues in Northern Virginia as Sen. Barker and Mr. Billingsley project, the state will add its twelfth Congressional seat. Weldon Cooper Center's projections for the 2010s, 2020s and 2030s project decreases in Alexandria and Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William counties, for a significant drop in the overall population growth of Northern Virginia.

Sen. Barker discussed the population growth and the corresponding economic health of Northern Virginia. During the legislative session, he briefly discussed his concern about the incorrect projections with the Secretary of Commerce, and he and Mr. Billingsley will follow up with the Secretary and Weldon Cooper Center staff on April 1.

Mr. Billingsley distributed population growth charts. He noted that two years into the new decade the City of Alexandria has already reached the population the state projected for 2030. In 2014, the city will reach the state's projection for 2040.

questions & answers Responding to Chairman Nohe, Sen. Barker said a letter to the Governor from the Commission would be helpful. Commissioner Cook asked Sen. Barker for additional examples of how inaccurate projections hurt the region to incorporate into the letter. Commissioner Bulova suggested also including examples of projects already in the development pipeline that will result in population increases.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Sue Rowland provided a broad summary. The Governor vetoed six bills, four of which pertained to the transient occupancy taxes for the City of Fairfax and Arlington County. The Governor made 52 amendments to the budget; one of significance relates to the FACT fund. This is more fully explained in the Executive Director's report, as are stormwater regulations updates. Ms. Rowland added that VML provides a good summary of the state school board control of failing schools in local jurisdictions.

HB 2313 (transportation): Most of NVRTA's recommended amendments were accepted. Measurement of the maintenance of effort requirement was changed to a three-year average. Chairman Nohe reported the language was changed so that if a jurisdiction in the region decides not to participate the other jurisdictions are not affected.

Commissioner Parrish expressed concern that in the future, the state legislature might provide less transportation funding to Northern Virginia since the region will have its own additional funding. Sen. Barker said he does not believe that will be the case for the near future. He pointed out both Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads will be able to do some of the projects the state has been unable to initiate.

Responding to Commissioner Lazaro's inquiry about Medicaid expansion in Virginia, Sen. Barker indicated a wide cross-section of business leaders, including the Chambers of Commerce, had gotten behind this program, but not to expect it to be available in Virginia starting January 1, 2014. [Commissioner Parrish departed.]

**SUPER NOVA
TRANSIT & TDM
VISION PLAN**

Chairman Nohe welcomed Amy Inman, Manager of Transit Planning with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT).

Amy Inman

Ms. Inman explained the area covered under this plan goes from Frederick County through Culpeper County south to Caroline County and also looks at travel patterns coming into and out of West Virginia, Maryland and D.C., hence the name Super NoVa. DRPT projects lots of growth in this area, with more than 8 million people in the Super NoVa region over the next 30 years. DRPT expects long distance commutes will continue for a long time. In order to accommodate that growth the existing travel/transit capacity must be maximized by moving people instead of cars.

The Super NoVa Transit & TDM Vision Plan development process started in fall 2011 and was completed in the fall of 2012. DRPT initiated this study to look beyond traditional local, regional and state boundaries in terms of transit and TDM operations and planning. The plan presents a regionally coordinated and comprehensive transit and TDM vision supporting increased mobility and greater transportation choice in the greater Northern Virginia region. The Vision Plan development process considered the mobility needs of the super region today as well as its future needs based on anticipated development patterns, population and employment growth, and travel demand.

Public and stakeholder involvement was a significant component of the planning process. Public agencies, special interest groups, and citizens were engaged through participatory workshops during the planning process. Meetings with the public, interest groups, and agencies coincided with project milestones and decision points during the planning process. In addition to meetings, opportunities for input were offered through social media, online questionnaires, and the project website.

Vision Plan recommendations include:

- Expansive commuter bus network throughout the region
- Interconnected network of high-capacity transit services in the region's urban areas
- Network of hubs to connect people to transportation services and programs
- Coordination of local transit services across jurisdictional boundaries
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities to improve connections to transit services and facilities
- Comprehensive regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategy and programs
- Leveraging technology to enable people to make informed decisions about travel

DRPT is working on implementation of the Vision Plan and wants to work with the greater region's planning district commissions as well as the local elected officials in order to maximize the investment of public funds.

questions & answers

Commissioner York asked if cost was discussed with the jurisdictions outside Northern Virginia. Ms. Inman explained the decision was made to develop the vision before the cost discussion was raised. Commissioner York stated he wants to avoid having the additional funds that will be raised by Northern Virginia for its transportation needs going to pay for this plan, which benefits residents outside Northern Virginia; those other jurisdictions will need to contribute a great deal of the funds.

Commissioner Martinez stated he commutes by bus and sees the value added to a regional plan. It would be nice to have one method of payment for all methods of transit in the area, and he advocated for increased bike lanes, bicycle racks/lockers, and sidewalks.

Commissioner Merkel added her constituents want transit to recreational centers/areas.

Commissioner Clarke noted the increased traffic from Charlestown on Route 9 and asked why West Virginia is not included. Ms. Inman replied the study makes recommendations for Virginia only but Secretary Connaughton wanted to understand the impacts from West Virginia and Maryland; there may be further dialog through the action plan process that might produce common strategies.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

Commissioner York moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Financial Reports January and February 2013

A.

Resolution No. P13-14: Authorization to Submit Technical Assistance Grant to Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

B.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Printed copies of the report were distributed:

- Community, Military & Federal Facilities Alliance of No. Va.
- Real Time Ridesharing
- Stormwater Regulation Updates
- Virginia Chamber of Commerce – Blueprint Virginia
- No. Va. Presentation to Virginia Community College Presidents
- NVRC Energy Strategy
- Universal Waste Management Training

Mr. Gibb distributed a memorandum outlining the pros and cons of creating a nonprofit foundation, explaining this would be reviewed by the Operations Committee and discussed at the next Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Nohe adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman